

# THE CONSEQUENCES OF OPPOSING CHRISTIANS

*[Historical evidence of what happened to Kingdoms,  
Emperors, Kings, Nations, Cities and people who opposed  
Christianity and Christians]*

by

**EVA. DR. S. THAYAPPAN**

12, G.D. Naidu Street, Balaji Avenue I  
Chitlapakkam Main Road, Selaiyur - P.O. Chennai - 600 073  
Tel: 044 - 43352899, 8680859894

*You shall seek them and not find them - those who contend-  
ed with you. Those who war against you shall be as a -  
non - existent thing.' - Isaiah 41:12*

**Donation Rs.10/-**

## CONTENTS

1. Egypt has become a petty nation	3
2. The Edomities became the targets of Jehovah's anger	7
3. Mount Seir became desolate	12
4. Lebanon became a curse	13
5. Assyria was utterly destroyed	18
6. The cities Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum were razed to the ground	21
7. Ashkelon was destroyed	25
8. Ekron was reduced to nothing	27
9. Gaza became extinct	27
10. Gath could be found no more	31
11. Ashdod was destroyed	32
12. The Amalekites were rooted out	33
13. AIDS - a dreadful terminal disease	34
14. The miracles the Lord did in the battles fought against Israel	38
15. Scarcity of food in Russia	44
16. The Roman emperors came under a curse.	54



## **1. Egypt has become a petty nation**

Of the 6000 years of history, the first 3000 years saw Egypt become a great nation. Even before B.C. 1400, that is, before the days of Moses, it excelled in education, arts, sculpture, architecture and various fields of knowledge. It was a strong nation and the world's most fertile land, too. You may read in my books (in Tamil) '*The fulfilled prophecies*' and '*Idol worship caused disintegration*' about the rivers, cities and rulers of Egypt and the fulfilment of the prophecies of the Lord concerning its downfall.

Egypt which is mentioned in the Bible is on the banks of the Nile 550 miles long and 12 to 32 miles wide and a fertile land with a thickly populated delta area. On the Western side there is the sand desert, on the east is the wilderness and a range of mountains 6000- 7000 feet high. The stones cut out from the mountains were used for building the cities of Noph (Memphis) and No (Thebes) and hundreds of pyramids. Numerous statues were also sculpted from them. That it had advanced in medical science is proved by the fact of the mummies of pharaohs being preserved intact till now.

### **Sufferings because of making the people of Israel slaves**

Jacob, the chosen of God and blessed by Him went to Egypt with his children and grand children in 1706 B.C. and his descendants remained there for 430 years. The Pharaohs who did not know Joseph made the people of Israel slaves. The slaves built the cities Pithom and Raamses and many pyramids. They were compelled to work very hard and treated mercilessly. As a result, they cried out to God. Because the people of God were

treated harshly in Egypt, God gave His judgment on Egypt in Ezekiel 30:6, 10, 13 (572 B.C) V.6: ***'Those who uphold Egypt shall fall, and the pride of her power shall come down.'*** V.10: says the Lord God: ***'I will also make a multitude of Egypt to cease by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon'***. V.13: Thus says the Lord God: ***'I will also destroy the idols' and cause the images to cease from Noph; there shall no longer be princes from the land of Egypt'***. Ezekiel 29:14-15 (572 B.C): ***'I will bring back the captives of Egypt and cause them to return to the land of Pathros, to the land of their origin, and there they shall be a lowly kingdom'. 'It shall be the lowliest of kingdoms; it shall never again exalt itself above the nations, for I will diminish them so that they will not rule over the nations anymore.'***

### **What God said was fulfilled to the letter**

In 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar annexed Egypt and made his ambassador rule over it. In the 7th century B.C. Mohammedans invaded Egypt, broke the statue in Noph and plundered the city. After Nebuchadnezzar, Persians (Camyses) took possession of Egypt in 525 B.C. and ruled over it. In 332 B.C. Alexander the Great of Greece seized it and after him the descendants of Ptolemy I, the General of Alexander ruled over it. In 48 B.C. the Romans captured Egypt and ruled over it. In A.D. 7th century Mohammedans captured it and ruled there. In 15th century A.D. France won a victory and established its rule there. In 1882 - 1922 A.D. the British empire had a sway over Egypt. On 18.6.1953 Egypt became a republic. Kamal Abdul Nasser became its first President. He and the ones who assumed office after him were not of the royal family of Egypt. Thus the word of God that the Pharaohs would not rule over Egypt any more came true.

### **The nation which caused distress became distressed**

For over 2000 years people of different nations became Egypt's, rulers and took away its riches to their own countries. Therefore, little by little Egypt's prosperity deteriorated and it became poorer than other nations. According to data the financial condition of Egypt was very low when compared with the neighbouring Arab nations. In 607 B.C. what the Lord spoke through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled. The Lord said, *'O virgin, the daughters of Egypt; in vain you will use many medicines; you shall not be cured'* -Jeremiah 46:11.

The efforts taken by the Kings of Egypt to set right the nation's economy were in vain. They dug the Suez Canal thinking they would get a considerable income through it, but they did not get the expected gain. Even the British rulers tried to bring about reforms but those reforms did not yield results. With the help of Russia a dam named Aswan across the Nile was built but it is said that instead of the expected good results, it brought only evil and Egypt faced many problems.

### **Intellectually great people became foolish**

It can be seen very clearly that the nation of Egypt which was once very advanced, prosperous and strong has fallen into a deplorable state because it persecuted the people of Israel (Christians). Besides, God made the wisemen, ministers and counsellors of the nation fools and their counsels, good for nothing. Even this, God revealed before 700 B.C. through His prophet. Isaiah 19:13-14 (714 B.C.) *"The princes of Zoan have become fools; the princes of Noph are deceived. They have also deluded Egypt, The Lord has mingled a perverse spirit in her midst; and they have caused Egypt to err in all her work, as a drunken man staggers in his vomit."*

### **The cat defeated the elephant**

On 14.5.1948 the nation of Israel was declared independent.

It infuriated the neighbouring Muslim countries. Since it was a newly created independent nation, it could easily be destroyed and its existence completely erased from the world map, and that was the right time to do it, they thought. It was a good idea since it was a concerted campaign by the members of the Arab League, namely, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia. Defeat for Israel was certain. In army strength the difference between the enemy countries and Israel was like the difference between an elephant and a cat. Whatever may be the number of people rising against the chosen people of God, their God is with them. So far five times Egypt and her allies the Arab countries waged a war against Israel. All the five times they suffered unimaginable defeat.

In 1947, 1956 and 1965 Egypt took Russia's help and her weapons and went to a battle. Even Syria joined Egypt. What was the use of their help? Egypt faced defeat after defeat. In 1967 Egypt, Syria and Libya joined together under the name 'The United Arab Republic' and with the help of 900 Russian tanks and 90,000 Russian soldiers and also with the support of Syria and Jordan, waged a war against Israel. However, Israel took only 6 days to defeat her enemies and she retrieved Sinai Peninsula from Egypt. Golan from Syria and the western part of river Jordan and Jerusalem from Jordan. Since Israel had control over the Suez Canal, the only big income from it that Egypt got was lost and Egypt's economy suffered a blow.

### **The counsellors of Egypt were bereft of good counsel**

As a drunken man staggers and walks with an unsteady gait, the Egyptian counsellors were unable to give good counsel. Above all, in 1979 Egypt made a peace treaty with Israel in spite of a strong opposition from the Muslim countries. As a result, Egypt was removed from the Arab League. On 31st January 1987, 'Dinamani' a daily published a news item. The heading was: 'Without any important agreement the Muslim conference

came to an end.' The 5th conference held in Kuwait where 46 members participated, ended without solving a pressing issue. The effort to bring about an ideological agreement between Syria and Egypt ended in failure.

### **The Lord, who makes counsels go haywire**

However much countries may join together and, with modern weapons, wage a war against the people chosen by God, they should only face defeat. Besides, even the counsels people give against God's people, God will bring them to naught. If any meetings are arranged to discuss measures to be taken against them, God will send a spirit of confusion there so that, they will not succeed in their attempt. This is what the fulfilment of prophecies quoted proves. To know more about the prophecies spoken against Egypt, please read my book '*Fulfilled prophecies - Part 3*' and '*Idol worship caused disintegration*'.

## **2. The Edomites became the targets of Jehovah's anger**

Rebekah the wife of Isaac gave birth to twins. The elder son was Esau and the younger one was Jacob (Gen. 25:21,26). Jacob first bartered the red porridge he had cooked, for Esau's birth right (Gen.25:29-34) and later deceived his blind father and took away all the blessings intended for Esau (Gen. 27:1, 28:5). Because of this there was enmity between the two. Esau was also called Edom (Gen.25:30, 36:8). Esau married two canaanit girls and the daughter of Ishmael and he dwelt in parts of Mount Seir (Gen. 36:8). Esau did not follow the Lord, and his descendants were indifferent and became atheists, say historians. In II Chronicles 25:14 we read that they were idol worshippers.

### **The Edomite is your brother**

In Numbers 20:14-21 we read how the Israelites had to avoid going through Edom on their journey from Egypt because the king of Edom refused to let them pass through Edom and opposed them. In Deut. 23:7 God commanded the Israelites not to abhor an Edomite his brother. Yet, the Edomites rose against the Israelites and from the days of King Saul, there had been constant wars between them both.

Edom was called Idumaea by the Greeks and Romans and it was 120 miles long and 80 miles wide. It was situated south west of the Dead Sea and on Mount Seir.

### **Though the Israelites went their way the Edomites caused trouble**

Because the Lord had said, "***You shall not abhor an Edomite for he is your brother***", the Israelites left and continued their journey. But, the Edomites continued to give them trouble. Therefore, God foretold through His prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Joel, Amos and Obadiah the punishment He was going to give the nation of Edom, its capital and its people. Christians do not retaliate however much those who oppose them give them trouble but remains patient. This does not show their weakness. Christians may be in the minority; they may not be able to directly oppose them. They also have money and positions. They are prepared even to die as martyrs. How long will it take for them to retaliate or keep a bomb in the area where their attackers live or sabotage a train derailment or use an A.K. 47 and attack them? Don't they know to act just as some groups and religious fanatics do? Then, why don't they act like them? They do not because Jesus Christ and the Bible have not told them to.

### **Do not take vengeance**

Jesus has said, "***Love your enemies. Pray for them who***



***despitefully use you and persecute you. Whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other cheek to him also."***

Christians have taken this as a command and whatever terrorist activity takes place, they are patient because they obey His Word. Even if Christians are patient, our Lord will not keep quiet. He will descend and fight for them. He will deal with those who oppose and torture Christians in such a way that they will not be seen anymore. I have written about all these with proof in my book '***The consequences of opposing Christ***' (in Tamil). Now, we shall see what happened to the Edomites who opposed the Isrealites. God warned them severely through His six prophets.

### **The missiles against the Edomites**

God gave vent to His anger through the following prophets as we read in their books of prophecy: Joel 3:19 (800 B.C.), Amos 1:11-12 (787 B.C), Isaiah 34:6-15 (713 B.C.), Jeremiah 49:10, 13, 15-18 (600 B.C), Ezekiel 25:13 (590 B.C.), 35:1-9, 14-15 (587 B.C), Obadiah 3-4, 6, 10, 18 (587 B.C.). I have already given the verses in my books, '***The fulfilled prophecies***' and '***Idol worship caused disintegration***'. I shall, therefore, give in a nutshell what God had spoken through them.

1. Edom will become a desolate wilderness (Joel 3:19, Ezekiel 35:3).
2. No man shall abide there (Jer. 49:18).
3. God will wreak vengeance on the Edomites by the hand of His people Isreal (Ezek 25:14).
4. He will put an end to trade and commerce in Edom (Ezek. 35:7).
5. There will be a lot of bloodshed in Edom (Is. 34:6).
6. Its cities will be burned, and thorns, nettles and brambles will grow there (Isaiah 34:13).
7. It will become the dwelling place of wild animals (Is. 34:14).

8. The nation of Edom and the people called Edomites will cease to exist (Jer. 49:10).

See how the prophecies of God were fulfilled. After the fight with the nation of Judah, Edom had peace for a little while, but there came trouble from the Assyrians. Later, the king of Babylon won a victory over Edom.

### **A protected city became desolate**

The capital of Edom known as Selah which was renamed Joktheel and later called Petra was protected by nature on all sides with steep mountains and the city itself was in a valley. On the mountain slopes with red stones were situated banks, government buildings, trade centres and houses all of which were built of stones scooped out of the mountain. Since it was on the main road leading to Egypt, Arabia, Babylon, Assyria and Syria, trade and commerce flourished there.

### **A warning from Jeremiah to Edom**

It is only about the city Selah (Petra) that we read in Jeremiah 49:16 and Obadiah 3 and 4: *'... O you who dwell in the clefts of the rock, who hold the height of the hill! Though you make your nest as right as the eagle, I will bring you down from there says the LORD.'* In the 6th century B.C. Nabataeans - men from the east (Ezek 25:4) invaded Edom, drove away the Edomites from Selah and settled there. Then the Edomites, were pushed to the northern part of Edom and the southern part of Judea. The Nabataeans were descendants of Ishmael. They ruled over the territory for four centuries. Around 160 B.C. it was annexed by Jewish leaders. John Hyrcanus and Judas Maccabaeus fulfilling the prophecy in Obadiah v. 18- *"The houses of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph a flame; but the house of Esau shall be stubble; they shall kindle them and devour them, and no survivor shall remain of the house of Esau, for the LORD has spoken."*

### **Edom and the descendants of Esau fell into ruin**

When the Romans lay siege to Jerusalem in B.C. 63 they sent 20,000 Edomites (Idumaenites) to the city and they destroyed the city by plundering and murdering indiscriminately. The Romans made Herod an Idumaenite rule over Judea. In 70 A.D. when the Roman chased the Jewish people out of Jerusalem and Judea, with them the Edomites also were driven out. Since then there has been no trace of the Edomites. The sculptures of the Romans are found in Selah (Petra)

### **Edom became a wilderness**

In 63 A.D. Muslims annexed Edom and plundered and burnt the remaining cities before leaving. After that Edom has not been inhabited and it remains a desolate place. Vazhini a historian who visited Edom for three days has mentioned that more than 30 cities have been devastated and they remain uninhabited. The prophecy of the Lord in Joel 3:19 (800 B.C.) that *'Egypt shall be a desolation and Edom a desolate wilderness because of violence against the people of Judah, for they have shed innocent blood in their land has been literally fulfilled'*. Even Herod an Edomite was with those who shed the innocent blood of Jesus and therefore, judgment came on Edom from God.

### **Edom has become the habitat of wild animals**

Isaiah has prophesied in his book of prophecy 34:11, 13-15 how Edom will be a habitat of wild animals and it will be a place full of thorns, nettles and brambles. It will also be a living place for foxes and jackals and an abode for owls, vultures, snakes, scorpions and extremely poisonous varieties of scorpions. A fearless swiss historian by name Burckhardt who had visited many places said that he knew what fear was only after visiting Selah (Petra). Even during cold seasons if you remove a stone, you will see two or three big and most

poisonous scorpions coming out. Arabians stopped going there because of the dangerous animals and poisonous creatures. Thus, a nation which once flourished because of its trade had become desolate since the people tortured God's chosen people. The Lord not only devastated the nation of Edom and its cities, He also completely annihilated the Edomites.

### **3. Mount Seir became desolate**

The mountainous region of Seir has the names 'Edom' (Gen. 3:36, Numbers 24:18) and 'Idumaea' (Mark 3:8) in Scripture. 'Idumaea' was given by the Greeks and was used by the Romans in the New Testament days. It is a mountain range where the Horites first lived (Gen. 14:6) and they lived in caves, say historians. Esau and his descendants occupied it (Gen. 36:8) after destroying the Horites (Deut. 2:21)

On their journey to Canaan, the Israelites had to go via Mount Seir and the Lord told them not to fight with them but buy food and water from them. (Deut. 2:4-6). But, the king of Edom did not permit them to go through his country and therefore, they did not go through Seir but made a detour.

#### **The people of Seir were cursed because they shed blood**

When Nebuchadnezzar waged a war against Israel, the Edomites joined the Babylonian armies, killed the Israelites and plundered their possessions. Similarly, when the Romans went to a battle with the Israelites, the army general named Titus sent 20,000 Edomites and permitted them to murder the people and plunder the city of Jerusalem. Since the Edomites shed the blood of the Israelites, the people of Seir were also guilty of shedding their blood. God pronounced His judgment through Ezekiel in 35:1-9, 14-15 (587 B.C). I give below the gist of the judgment of God.

1. Because the people of Mount Seir shed the blood of the people of Israel, they would be pursued by blood shed. (VV 5,6).
2. Their cities would be laid waste and they would not be inhabited again (vv.4, 9).
3. The Lord would cut off all possibility of the people of Mount Seir going out and coming in and the people would be slain (v.7).
4. It would be desolate, for the Lord would make it a desolation. (vv 3, 15).

### **Mount Seir remained unsought after**

In 636 A.D. Mohammedans took hold of Mt. Seir, razed to the ground the cities, burnt them down and, before leaving, they utterly destroyed everything there. Since then Seir had been desolate. Now, it forms part of the nation of Jordan. Recently, a historian by name Vazhini who went round the region for three days wrote that more than 30 cities had been torched and laid waste. There was no proper transport and no movement of people anywhere there. Thus, what the Lord pronounced through Ezekiel in 587 B.C. has come to pass to the letter. Whoever it is, the truth should be borne in mind that if anyone opposes the people chosen by God, he will face dire consequences. The fall of Edom and Mount Seir bear testimony to it.

## **4. Lebanon became a curse**

Lebanon is situated on the eastern border of the Mediterranean Sea, north of Israel and west of Syria. Its total extent is 10,400 square metres. We learn from the Bible that it is a mountainous region with dense forests of many cedar,

fir and fragrant trees. King Solomon got the wood (timber) of those trees for building the magnificent temple for the Lord from Hiram King of Tyre in exchange for wheat, barley, oil and wine (II Chronicles 2:1-18).

The cedar trees of Lebanon were each 80 feet tall and had a circumference of 40 feet. They were strong and were used for strong and intricate workmanship and for making beams, pillars, masts and wooden boards. Recently, Beirut, the capital of Lebanon was considered an important city among the Central East nations. It had one of the world's very big civil airports, a big trade centre and it was a city which tourists loved to visit. It was called a Vanity Fair, for, it had many games - fields and entertainment halls and had the features that would attract people and take them directly to hell! Such a nation would open her doors to strangers and become desolate, and her precious cedar and fir trees would have destroyed was the prophecy God gave through Prophet Zechariah (Zech. 11:1,2)

### **Ahab lost favour with God**

Ahab king of Israel married Jezebel princess a battle ground of Tyre and he made the children of Israel worship idols.

Zechariah prophesied thus: 11:1-2 (536 BC) ***"Open your doors O Lebanon, that fire may devour your cedars. Wail, O Cypress, for the Cedar has fallen, became the mighty trees are ruined"***

In fulfilment of the prophecy, the Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks, Seleucians, Romans, Turks, crusaders and Arab Muslims began to reign over them one after another. Now Lebanon is an independent nation. Historians say that the Assyrian Kings destroyed the forests in Lebanon for making weapons of war. The cedar and fir trees of Lebanon have long since been destroyed and are found no more. Now there is a small grove of new cedar trees and only two or three old cedar trees are seen there.

### **Lebanon which has become a battlefield**

In additions, ancient settlers Muslims, Palestinian refugees, Syrian armies and Israeli armies entered the nation and there was confusion among them and battles were fought. For the last 30-35 years, there have been wars between Muslims and Christians, Syrians and Israelis and Palestinian refugees and Israelis, as a result, the nation itself became a battle ground causing vegetation to be completely destroyed. Also, Beirut city which was considered as the modern sodom was destroyed, thus fulfilling the prophecy the Lord gave through Zechariah.

### **The confirmed judgment through Prophets**

God has given some more prophecies about Lebanon through His prophets. You may read them too.

Isaiah 10:34 (715 B.C): *'He will cut down the thickets of the forest with iron, and Lebanon will fall by the Mighty One. Isaiah 40:16 (712 B.C.): 'And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering'. Ezekiel 31:15 (588 B.C): 'In the day when it went down to hell, I caused mourning. I covered the deep because of it... I caused Lebanon to mourn for it, and all the trees of the field wilted because of it.'* Nahum 1:4 (713 B.C) : *'He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, and dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither and the flower of Lebanon wilts.'*

### **Lebanon was ruined because of the civil war**

God has prophesied through Isaiah and Nahum that Lebanon will lose her prosperity. It is said that because of the civil war waged during the last 25 years 2,40,000 people have lost their lives. Countless number of buildings and residential complexes were damaged because of bombing and even irrigation was affected. The Loss Lebanon suffered can not be estimated. Through Ezekiel the Lord said that because of Egypt, He made Lebanon be in darkness. Let us see how it was fulfilled.

Zechariah prophesied thus: 11:1-2 (536 B.C) V.1: ***'Open your doors Lebanon, that fire may devour your cedars': V.2 : "Wail, O Cypress, for the cedar has fallen, because the mighty trees are ruined."***

In fulfilment of the prophecy, the Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks, Seleucans, Romans, Turks, Crusaders and Arab Muslims began to reign over them one after another. Now, Lebanon is an independent nation. Historians say that the Assyrian kings destroyed the forests in Lebanon for making weapons of war. The Cedar and fir trees of Lebanon have long since been destroyed and are found no more. Now, there is a small grove of new cedar trees and only two or three old cedar trees are seen there.

### **Lebanon has become a battlefield**

In addition to ancient settlers, Muslims, Palestinian, refugees, Syrian armies and Israeli armies entered the nation and there was confusion among them and battles were fought. For the last 30-35 years there have been wars between Muslims and Christians, Syrians, and Israelis and Palestinian refugees and Israelis, as a result, the nation itself became a battle ground causing vegetation to be completely destroyed. Also Beirut city which was considered as modern sodom was destroyed, thus fulfilling the prophecy the Lord gave through Zechariah.

### **The confirmed judgment through prophets**

God has given some more prophecies about Lebanon through His prophets. You may read them too.

Isaiah 10:34 (715 B.C): He will cut down the thickets of the forest with iron and Lebanon will fall by the mighty one. Isaiah 40:16 (712 B.C): "And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering." Ezekial 31:15 (588 B.C): "Thus says the Lord



God: In the day when it went down to ball, I caused mourning. I entered this deep because of it... I caused Lebanon to mourn fruit". Nahum 1:4 (713 B.C): He rebuker this sea and makes it dry and dries up all the rivers. Bashan and earmel wither and the flower of Lebanon wilts.

### **Lebanon was ruined because of the civil war**

God has prophecied through Isaiah and Nahum that Lebanon will lose her prosperity. It is said that because of the civil war waged during the last 25 years 2,40,000 people have lost their lives. Countless number of buildings and residential conflexes were damaged because of bombing and even irrigation was affected. The loss Lebanon suffered cannot be estimated. Through Ezekiel the Lord said that because of Egypt, He made Lebanon be in darkness. Let us see how it was fulfilled.

### **Those who joined together were totally destroyed.**

Determined to destroy completely the nation of Israel which had become independent, Egypt made an alliance with Arab countries and Lebanon also joined with it. Because Egypt wanted to annihilate Israel - the people whom God had chosen for Himself - God made it a nonentity (insignificant). Since Lebanon joined Egypt, God destroyed her also. In the five wars waged between Israel and the Arab nations, many Arab Muslims became refugees and they settled in Jordan. In 1970 they were driven out of Jordan and hence they settled in Lebanon. Lebanon became the seat of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. From there they attacked the northern part of Galilee and Israel retaliated. This was a good excuse for Syria to get ammunicions from Russia and enter Lebanon to create confusion there. According to the numbers given by 'The Hindu' dt. 8.11.1989, there were 30,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon on that date. Bombing and shooting has been a daily occurrence there.

### **Lebanon became a hell on earth**

25 years ago, the population of Lebanon was 35 lakhs. With the beginning of the turmoil there, the number stood at 2,40,000. In 1987 alone 4000 people migrated to the U.S.A. Between 1982 and 89, 40,000 people settled in Cyprus. In the last four years 1,20,000 settled in France. With the beginning of the civil war, 10,000 people settled in the U.S.A, Canada and Australia. In 1989 the population of Lebanon was said to be 25,00,000. This is the number given by the 'Frontline' magazine, dt. 14th and 27th October 1989. Seeing the suffering of the people of Lebanon, in 1989 the Frontline magazine described Lebanon as a hell on earth. What the Lord prophesied through Ezekiel centuries ago is being fulfilled in our age!

### **Citizens who lose their lives in the war**

According to the report of the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, in 1988 - 89, Syria was, on an average, dropping 20,000 bombs on Lebanon everyday and it resulted in loss of life and property. Syria had killed more Arabs than what Israel had done in her five wars. It was Syria's intention to annex Lebanon, some parts of Jordan and the whole of Israel and make itself the 'Greater Syria'. Understanding this ambition of Syria, Yasser Arafat, the leader of Palestinian Liberation Organisation detached himself from Syria. Thus, Lebanon which went to war against Israel joining Egypt has become a curse and is facing destruction everyday. Let us see what happened to other nations which opposed Israel.

## **5. Assyria was utterly destroyed**

The region where Asshur the grandson of Noah had settled was known as Assyria. Nimrod the great grandson of Noah built the city of Nineveh on the eastern border of the river Tigris

in about 2200 B.C. This city was established as the capital of Assyria in the 7th century B.C. by King Sargon. Assyria was a powerful kingdom between the 9th and 7th centuries B.C.

### **The Assyrians took Israel and Judah captive**

The Assyrian kings namely, Tiglath Pileser (also known as Pul), (745 - 723 B.C.), Shalmaneser (726-722 B.C.), Sargon (721 - 705 B.C., and Sennacherib (704 - 681 B.C.) invaded both the nations of Israel and Judah, plundered and carried away all their riches and tortured those they had taken captive. Shalmaneser captured Samaria the capital of Israel in 722 B.C. (II Kings 18:9-10). The next year Sargon took 27,290 people of Israel captive and settled them in the cities of the Medes and in Halah and Habor on the banks of the river Gozan. Instead of settling the Jewish captives in Samaria and its neighbourhood, he settled the Assyrians there. In 701 B.C. Sennacherib the Assyrian king destroyed many Jewish cities and besieged Jerusalem (II Kings 18:13-19, 37). Because Hezekiah king of Judah besought the Lord's help, He sent an angel and slaughtered 1,85,000 Assyrian soldiers in the night. Frightened, Sennacherib returned to Nineveh. He was killed by his own sons (II Kings 19:36).

### **Assyrian Kings took away gold and silver from Israel**

To appease the Assyrian king Tiglathpileser, also known as Pul, Menahem the king of Israel gave him a thousand talents silver in 742 B.C. (II Kings 15:19). To satisfy Tiglathpileser the Assyrian king, King Ahaz of Judah gave him all the gold and silver that was in the Temple (II Kings 16:8). In 701 B.C. King Hezekiah of Judah was paying a tribute of 30 talents gold and 300 talents silver to Sennacherib. To do this, he removed the gold plates fixed on the doors and doorposts of the Temple (II Kings 18:14-15). In this way the riches of Israel were plundered and looted by the Assyrian kings. All the Assyrian kings were descendants of the great grandson

of Noah whose family of 8 people alone God saved from the deluge. The Bible says in Deuteronomy 7:9, "***The Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.***" To those who fear God He is good. But, if any one tortures His chosen people, will He keep quiet? God passed His judgment on the Assyrian kings through His prophets.

### **Prophecies about the destruction of Assyria**

God spoke through His prophets Isaiah and Zephaniah as follows: Isaiah 10:5, 12, 16, 18, 14:25, 30:31, 31:8 (B.C. 713); Zephaniah 2:13 (B.C. 608). I give below the gist of the prophecies:

1. The anger of God will descend on the Assyrians as a rod and staff.
2. He will judge the pride and the glory of the high looks of the Assyrian king's eyes.
3. He will send leanness in the fat Assyrians.
4. The glory of the forest and that of the fruitful field will be lost.
5. The number of trees in their forest will be reduced.
6. The Assyrian will fall by a sword not of man but a sword of God will devour him.
7. God will make Nineveh a desolation and a wilderness.

### **The prophecy that the fort of Nineveh will be devastated.**

The decline of the Assyrian empire enabled Nabopolassar, a Chaldean, to recover Babylon and found a new dynasty in 626 B.C.. In 612 B.C. there was a great flood in the river Tigris and it wrought havoc in Nineveh. It broke the Nineveh fort and covered the city and its neighbourhood with sand. Since then

Assyria had remained desolate. The new Babylonian reign totally destroyed the Assyrian kingdom. According to Isaiah 31:8. Assyria fell not by the sword of man but because of a natural catastrophe - a flood sent by God. It became a wilderness with no fertility and prosperity. In the 19th century A.D. Sir Austen Henry Layard, an archeologist and a researcher of ancient relics and excavations found the ruins of Nineveh city buried deep in the earth. Even to day, those remains of Nineveh and the fall of the Assyrian kingdom bear testimony to what happens to the cities as well as the kingdoms which are against the chosen people of God.

## **6. The cities Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum were razed to the ground**

The cities mentioned above were on the shore of the Sea of Galilee on the northwestern side. Jesus Christ did much of His ministry in this region. Many people with incurable diseases were healed; the blind received their sight, the lame walked, lepers were cleansed, the dead were raised and many were delivered from the bondage of Satan. The miracles which Christ did were numerous. In spite of seeing those miracles with their own eyes, the people of those cities did not repent of their sins.

### **Judgment to the cities given by Jesus Christ:**

Mathew 21:21-24 (31 A.D.): *"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sack cloth and ashes. But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades : for*

***if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you."***

### **The cities that were doomed**

Jesus did not say that the cities would be destroyed but the words, '**Woe to you**' which He used did unequivocally pronounce doom to them. Around 400 A.D. the three cities were destroyed in an earthquake. They look like mounds of earth as centuries roll on. Researchers of ancient cities in ruins have excavated the remains of a Jewish synagogue which had existed there. The doom that Jesus pronounced came true and all the three cities were destroyed.

### **Christians contributed to the prosperity of India**

We should remember the many things done by Christians which have contributed to the prosperity of India. They have left their mark on every single field. They have done a lot of improvement in science, medicine, education, agriculture, industry, transport, electricity, petrol, diesel, gas, communication, railways, aircraft, cars, research done on planets - take whatever field you like, none will be without the role of Christians. Sathi (the practice of the widow of the deceased being burnt alive along with the corpse) the distinction between the high caste and the low caste, untouchability and a few other obnoxious social practices were put an end to by Christians. Foreigners like William Cary, G.U. Pope, Veerama Munivar, Bartholomew, Mother Theresa, Caldwell and Max Muller have given their entire lives to help improve our country in different fields. Will there be a C.M.C. without Christians? How many Christian Mission hospitals are still doing selfless service to humanity! The poor and the downtrodden in our society whom we have ignored, Christians have taken care of and comforted them by the love of Christ.

## **Christianity which has made our people education - conscious.**

Colleges like M.C.C., Loyola, St. Joseph's - to name a few - and the many convents and Christian institutions have opened the eyes of thousands of ignorant people in India. Crores of people have been delivered from addictions such as alcoholism, drugs, chewing, smoking, gambling, adultery, fornication, murder and plunder! How many people's tears have been wiped! Consider how many have been delivered from a state of despair, depression, peacelessness, the tendency to commit suicide, suffering from incurable diseases and the evil effects of witchcraft and sorcery!

Christians do not convert anyone to their religion. They only help people to have a change of heart - a change from their sinful life and sinful thoughts. It is a change of heart and not a change of religion they wish people to have. They speak to people about the joy, peace and good health they have received from Christ, and when they come across some people who do not know where to go for a solution to their problems, they tell them about the divine source, namely, Jesus Christ. They do it with all good intentions. They think, "Let others also enjoy the peace and joy that I have received from Jesus." They do not compel anyone to become a Christian. For their acts of compassion they do not expect money or any gift.

## **Sharing the gospel is the responsibility of Christians**

Christians pray for the nation, its leaders and the people without ceasing. They carry out the command of Jesus Christ that ***'they should go into all the world and preach the gospel'*** (good news). They go particularly to places where people have not heard the name of Jesus. Jesus said that there would be joy in heaven over the repentance of one sinner. Therefore, it is the duty of Christians who have received salvation from Jesus to speak about it and bring others also to the saving knowledge of

Christ. If anyone accepts Jesus Christ as his Saviour because a Christian speaks to him about Christ, what does the Christian get? Does the person give him money? No, nothing at all.

### **Christianity is not a religion, it is a way**

Christianity is not at all a religion, but it is a way shown by Jesus Christ. The relationship we had with God our Creator was broken because of our sin and Christianity shows people to regain the lost relationship. Jesus Christ is not the head of a religion. He did not take the form of man to establish a religion. He came to take the sins of everyone of us on Himself and He shed His blood and died on a cross. Thereby, He taught us to walk in the path of righteousness. There is so much of terrorism and violence against Christians, but, has there ever been retaliation, vengeance, Christians going on a strike or organising a bundh or have they resorted to shooting and bombing? No. Why? Aren't Christians men? Are they lacking in financial resources? Christians are those who are ready to die as martyrs for Jesus Christ.

### **Christians love even their enemies**

How long will it take for a Christian to silently place a bomb in a location where people gather? How long will it take for him to sabotage the derailment of a train or burn a bus or set fire to a Hindu temple? Why doesn't a Christian do it? Instead, he takes all the opposition, beatings and disturbances to church services without a word. Although the Indian constitution has made provisions for everyone to worship any God they choose, some terrorist groups violate it and indulge in violence.

Yet, why do Christians bear all evil done to them patiently? That is what the Bible tells them to do and Christians follow the teachings of Christ to the letter. That is why they do not retaliate or indulge in violence. They will not do anything to those who oppose them.



**If Christianity is at stake, the Lord will protect it.**

When Christians are attacked, will the Lord look at their plight and keep quiet? He is the living God. Therefore, if those who believe in Him and those who accept Him as their Saviour are affected in any manner, He will fight the battle for them. He will destroy not only those who oppose Christian. He will mercilessly put an end to their generation, their city, nation and every thing connected to them. That is what we are considering now. Take into account the number of nations and cities which were ruined and think of the multitudes of people who have died pathetically. What has been written is not an imaginary story. It is history. To this day the remains of the destroyed cities and their buildings lie buried deep down in the earth. They will see the light of day only when excavated by researchers.

**If you neglect the truth, you will be punished**

Not only if you oppose Christianity and not only if you torture Christians, even if you do not listen to the truth spoken about Christ, if you do not repent and give up your sinful ways and also if you ignore the good things Christianity has brought about in our country (India) you will face the same destiny that the nations and cities we have discussed so far faced many centuries ago.

**7. Ashkelon was destroyed**

One of the cities the Philistines settled in was Ashkelon. This was one of the five important cities of the Philistines. About 2000 B.C. it became a Canaanite city. The Philistines who settled there around 1195 B.C. continued to give trouble to the Israelites. The Lord being mindful of His people (the Israelites) foretold through His prophets Jeremiah, Amos,

Zephaniah, and Zechariah how the Lord would destroy not only Ashkelon, even the other four cities of the Philistines, namely Ekron, Ashdod, Gath and Gaza. Let us now consider the prophecies of the four prophets: Jeremiah 47:5 (607 B.C.): ***"Baldness has come upon Gaza, Ashkelon is cut off with the remnant of the valley, how long will you cut yourself?"*** Amos 1:8 (787 B.C) ***"I will cut off the inhabitants from Ashdod, and the one who holds the scepter from Ashkelon; I will turn my hand against Ekron, and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish, says the Lord God."***

Zephaniah 2:4, 6, 7 (630 B.C) ***"For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon desolate; They shall be uprooted: The seacoast shall be pastures with shelters for shepherds and folds for flocks: The coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah; they shall feed their flocks there; in the houses of Ashkelon, they shall lie down at evening. For the LORD their God will intervene for them and return their captives."***

Zechariah: 9.5 (487 B.C) ***"Ashkelon shall see it and fear; Gaza also shall be very sorrowful; and Ekron for He dried up her expectation. The king shall perish from Gaza, and Ashkelon shall not be inhabited."***

### **Ashkelon became the grazing ground of sheep**

Ashkelon was a good harbour city during the Roman regime till 634 A.D. Later, Mumluk Sultan Baybars devastated the city, threw stones into the harbour and made it unusable. Since the city was devastated and the neighbourhood was fertile, the people made it a grazing ground for sheep. According to historians even in the 17th century A.D. there was only a Turkish army there. After that Ashkelon was an uninhabited city with nothing but mounds of earth. However, when Israel became a nation in 1948, the region of Gaza including Ashkelon went to Egypt. In the 6 day war between Egypt and Israel in 1967 Israel won and retained Gaza and Ashkelon. In

this manner, as prophesied by Zephaniah in 2:6 and 7, Ashklon belonged to the remnant of Judah. Later, Israel designed this city as a place of recreation and parks. Now, more and more buildings are coming up.

Because the Philistines constantly gave trouble to Israel, the Lord destroyed Ashkelon completely and killed its leaders. The city remained uninhabited for sometime. In the end, it has reached the hands of Israel, thus fulfilling the prophecy of God.

## **8. Ekron was reduced to nothing**

Ekron was one of the five important cities of the Philistines. The Philistines were a thorn in the flesh of the children of Israel and gave them trouble constantly. Therefore, when the Lord punished the Philistines, it affected Ekron also. God announced the destruction of Ekron through His prophets Amos: 1:8, Zephaniah 2:4 and Zechariah 9:5. Since the verses have been quoted in the previous chapter, I shall not repeat them, but confine my discussion to the fall of Ekron.

In 1270 A.D. Mamluk Sultan Baybars annexed Palestine and destroyed the nation of the Philistines with its cities during which time the city of Ekron also was destroyed. Today, it is nothing but a desolate wilderness. The word spoken by the Lord GOD 2000 years ago has been proved true.

## **9. Gaza became extinct**

The city of Gaza was one of the ancient cities. Even before the days of Abraham it was inhabited by people known as Avvim. The Hebrew name of Gaza is Azzah (Deut. 2:23, I

Kings 4:24). Around 1195 B.C. the Philistines drove away the people and settled in Gaza as well as the surrounding places. Then Gaza became the capital city of the Philistines. During the period of Judges in Israel, Samson took the gates of the city of Gaza with its two posts and carried them to the top of a hill (Judges 16:1-3). When the name Philistines is mentioned, we are reminded of David and Goliath. The Philistines continued to give a lot of trouble to the people of Israel after they settled in Canaan the promised land.

During the time the people of Israel had their harvest, the Philistines cut the sheaves of corn and carried them away. After David became king, he defeated the Philistines and extended his kingdom. During Solomon's time there was no invasion by the Philistines. But, after Solomon, the Kingdom was divided, and there was constant invasion by the Philistines. Both Israel and Judah suffered at their hands.

Because the Philistines gave trouble to the people of Israel and made them suffer, the Lord gave His judgment against the Philistines and their cities. Let us first see God's word spoken against the Philistines and then we shall discuss the destruction of Gaza.

### **The Philistines will face utter destruction**

The Lord God pronounced His judgment through His prophets Isaiah (712 B.C.) in 14:31, Zephaniah (670 B.C.) in 2:5-7, Jeremiah (620 B.C.) 47:4, Ezekiel 25:15-17 (590 B.C.), Obadiah V.19 (587 B.C.) and Zechariah 9.6 (487 B.C.) Isaiah prophesied that ***'the entire Philistine nation would melt away'***, Zephaniah said that ***'the Lord would destroy the cities so that they would not be inhabited'***. Jeremiah said that ***'the Lord would destroy even the remnant of the Philistines'***. Ezekiel also said that ***'the Lord would destroy those Philistines who were left over and wreak vengeance on them'***. Obadiah said that ***'the people on the plains would possess the land of the***

***Philistines'***. Zechariah said that ***'the Lord would cut off the pride of the Philistines'***. God spoke words of impending doom to the Philistines through all His prophets I have mentioned above. Now let us see how and when the prophecies were fulfilled.

### **The people named Philistines will cease to exist**

When Nebuchadnezzar the Babylonian King invaded Judah, he plundered the Philistine cities and slaughtered the people, too. In the 8th and 7th centuries B.C. the Egyptians and Assyrians waged a war with the Philistines and destroyed them. The fact that the army camp of Egypt had remained in the Philistine land was confirmed by the researchers who excavated the remains. In 333 A.D. Alexander the Great invaded and won the battle. He caused much damage to the nation. Yet, till 1270 A.D. the Philistines seem to have remained as a small group. In 1270 A.D. Sultan Baybars annexed whatever remained and slaughtered all the people, with the result, there was not a single Philistine alive in the country. "The Philistines have been destroyed so completely that there is not a single Philistine living anywhere in the world today." wrote Mr. George Davis in his book ***'Bible Prophecies fulfilled today.'*** In spite of the complete devastation, the country is still fertile.

### **The cities of the Philistines became Israel's possession**

In the six - day war between Israel and Egypt in 1967 Israel seized Gaza including Ashkelon and the prophecy through Zephaniah 2:7 which said, ***"The coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah;"*** was fulfilled. There is no connection between the Philistines and the Arab Muslims who call themselves Palestinians and claim Gaza and Judea - Samaria (West Bank) as theirs. They are Bedouins who were originally an nomadic tribe of Arab Muslims. In 1982 A.D after the Jews returned to Israel from Russia and had permanent

settlement, they also became permanent settlers and lived with the Jews.

### **There is no connection between the Palestinians and the Philistines**

Until the Jewish State was officially declared as the nation of Israel in 1948, the region which the Arab Muslims occupied was known as Palestine. The daily (newspaper) which the Jews published was first called '*Palestinian Post!*' When the Jews named their nation 'Israel' the daily's name also was changed and it was called, "*Jerusalem Post*". After that the Muslims who were living with the Jews began to call themselves "*Palestinians*" and became hostile in their attitude to the Jews. However, there is no connection between the Palestinians and the Philistines.

### **Our God still lives as a Destroyer**

God destroyed the race of the Philistines leaving none living to mention their name. The annihilation of the Philistine is a testimony which proves that if any one persecutes the chosen people of God, God will take the role of the Destroyer. Not only 3000 years ago was God alive, He lives even today. He is a never - changing and ever - living God, and as powerful and indignant as ever. We should never forget that He is a consuming fire. The Bible has proofs to show the consequences of a direct confrontation with Him or His children.

### **Gaza was burned down**

God said through His prophets Jeremiah 47:1,5 (607 B.C), Amos 1:6-7 (787 B.C.), Zephaniah 2:4 (630 B.C) and Zechariah 9:5 (487 B.C) that He would not only destroy the Philistines but also its capital city Gaza. Let me put God's word in a nutshell; '*Gaza will be burned down, it will have no people living in it and it will be like a bald head. Its king will perish.*'

Now, there exists a city by name Gaza and some people thought that the prophecy was true. But, researchers of ancient relics have discovered the old Gaza city which was situated two miles off the sea coast, covered with sand dunes, looking like a bald head with no sign of grass or any vegetation ever having grown there. The present city of Gaza was not built on top of the debris of the old city. In 1270 A.D. the city was burned down by Sultan Baybars and he killed the king too. In this way, the prophecy which God spoke through the four prophets within a gap of 300 years was fulfilled after 1700 years exactly as He had spoken.

### **10. Gath could be found no more**

The five cities namely, Gaza, Gath, Ashkelon, Ashdod and Ekron were Philistine cities. The moment Gath is mentioned, we are reminded of Goliath. Gath was the city which was situated close to the nation of Israel. It was 10 miles east of Ashdod and 10 miles south east of Ekron.

Prophet Amos makes an oblique reference to the fall of this city in 6:2, 7; V.2: ***"Go over to Calneh and see; and from there go to Hamath the great; then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are you better than these kingdoms? Or is their territory greater than your territory?"*** V.7: ***"Therefore they shall now go captive as the first of the captives, and those who recline at Banquets shall be removed."***

Fulfilment: According to history, Crusaders sojourned in this city and fought against the Arabs. But, for some reason the city disappeared leaving no trace of its existence. Some researchers of excavations feel that Tell esh - Sheriah, Tell es - Safi, Araq el - Menshiyeh and a few other possible sites may have been the place where Gath was situated. But certainty

must await further investigation. There is Jewish city by the same name built in this century, but there is no relationship between this city and the Philistine city of Gath. What God foretold about Gath was fulfilled exactly as He had spoken through Prophet Amos.

## 11. Ashdod was destroyed

Ashdod was one of the five cities of the Philistines. Beginning from the days of Prophet Samuel (approximately, 1020 B.C.), even till the Jews returned from captivity in Babylon (536 B.C.), Ashdod was the capital of the Philistines. Ashdod was an inland city situated between Ashkelon and Ekron. About 8 kilometres off the sea and near the place called 'Ebenezer', a battle between the people of Israel and the Philistines was fought. In the battle the people of Israel were defeated and the ark of the covenant was seized and taken to the temple of Dagon at Ashdod (I Samuel 5:1-8).

The Philistines were a thorn in the flesh of the Jews. Therefore, the Lords' judgment came to them through Prophets Amos, Zephaniah and Zechariah. Amos 1:7 (787 B.C.): ***"I will cut off the inhabitants from Ashdod and the one who holds the scepter from Ashkelon; I will turn My hand against Ekron, and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish says the Lord GOD."*** Zephaniah 2:4 (630 B.C.): ***"For Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon desolate; they shall drive out Ashdod at noonday, and Ekron shall be uprooted."*** Zechariah 9:6 (483 B.C.): ***"A mixed race shall settle in Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines."***

### Woe to Ashdod

God said firmly that the city of Ashdod would deteriorate. During the days of the Maccabees Ashdod was captured by



the Jews who removed all the idols and changed Ashdod into a Jewish city. During the reign of the Romans, Ashdod was renovated and it became the headquarters of a Christian diocese. But, later in 636 - 1062 A.D. because of the Arab invasion, the city was ruined and the palaces were broken down. In 1956 A.D. Ashdod was built as a Jewish city on the sea shore, and today it is a harbour and an industrial estate. This city was not built on the rubble of the old city. The remains of the destroyed palaces of the old Ashdod city can be seen even today. Every word of what the Lord had spoken through His prophets was fulfilled.

## **12. The Amalekites were rooted out**

During the time the Israelites were returning from Egypt and journeying to Canaan, the Amalekites were living in the southern part of Canaan, Sinai peninsula and the south west border of Egypt. Even during the days of Abraham the Amalekites were living there (Gen 14:1) During the journey of the Israelites to Canaan, it was the Amalekites who first fought with them and were a stumbling block to them at Rephidim. Over the ages, they fought with the Israelites either by themselves or joining with other nations. Hence the anger of the Lord was kindled against them. God pronounced their end through Moses.

### **The Wrath of God**

Exodus 17:14 (1491 B.C.) *"Then the Lord said to Moses, write this for a memorial in the book and recount it in the hearing of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven."*

When the king of Moab wanted Balaam to curse the Israelites, God informed Balaam what would happen to many nations. What He foretold about the Amalekites is recorded in

Numbers 24:20 (1452 B.C.): *"Amalek was first among the nations, but shall be the last until he perishes."*

### **Fulfilment**

Before David became king, he was fearful of Saul and lived with his men at Ziklag in the land of the Philistines. From there he used to invade the Amalekites, kill men and women and plunder and loot the country (I Samuel 27:8,9). But, 400 of them escaped from David. During the reign of king Hezekiah, he destroyed the remnant of the Amalekites and the Jews occupied their land (I Chronicles 4:41-43, 7153 B.C.).

When the Amalekites were a strong nation, the Israelites were like nomads eating the manna provided by God and were wandering in the wilderness struggling even to get water. But, because of God's curse the Amalekites were rooted out and, as a nation, they became extinct within 780 years. Today the name 'Amalekites' is unheard of, whereas, the nation of Israel, though small, has progressed well and become strong because of the blessings of God. It is now a terror to the neighbouring Arab nations.

## **13. AIDS - a dreadful terminal disease**

For the last 25 years we see many dailies, weeklies and monthlies publishing news about the epidemic called AIDS. The expansion of AIDS is: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. It can be explained as follows: It is a disease which makes one lose the power to prevent a disease from attacking the body. In other words, it makes a person's body lose the immune system. This is caused by homosexuality, having sexual relationship with those affected by the disease or using the needle used by the one with the disease or by the transfusion of the blood of the AIDS patient.

## Homosexuality will cause death

Because this habit was rampant in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, God destroyed them by sending fire and brimstone from heaven even 2025 years before Christ (Genesis 19:1-14, 24). God warned His people about this sin through Moses in Leviticus 18:22, 29 (1490 B.C) and Apostle Paul has warned believers by his writing in Romans 1:24, 26 and 27 (60 A.D) Liviticus 18:22 - ***"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination."*** V.29: ***"For whoever commits any of these abominations, the persons who commit them shall be cut off from among their people."***

Romans 1:24 - ***"Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonour their bodies among themselves", V.26: "For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. V. 29: Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due."***

**The desire to do anything base and loathsome will cause destruction**

Homosexuality mentioned in the Bible is a sin against God's law. We shall see how true the biblical statements, ***"God gave them up to vile passions" and "the persons who commit them shall be cut off from among their people"*** are:-

Western countries like America and Britain have recreation clubs where they have wrong relationships. They have legalised marriages between man and man and, going a step further, even those who call themselves Christians, have appointed homosexual pastors who can solemnize marriages between the same sex couples. All these are abominable in the eyes of God and to be considered sin.

### **AIDS is a weapon used by Satan**

The nature of this disease is to weaken the white corpuscle and make them completely lose their power to fight with the disease - causing germs, so much so that even if a man is affected by a minor ailment, no powerful medicine can help him recover. He will die without getting cured. Whatever may be the age of the AIDS patient, within two or three years of contracting the disease he will certainly die. Many countries have done researches, but they have not found a medicine to cure AIDS.

### **The habit of taking drugs will cause AIDS**

People who are addicted to this habit in countries like Spain, France and Italy are affected by AIDS. It is estimated that by the year 1988 in 30 European countries 3 to 8 lakhs people maybe afflicted by this disease and it is said that by 1991, 2,70,000 Americans will have contracted this disease and 1,79,000 people will die of it. The same estimate says, by 1991, in the whole world 6,40,000 (six crores and fifty lakhs) people may contract AIDS.

### **India in the clutches of AIDS**

It is estimated that by 1995 there may be lakhs of people who will spread AIDS. Now, the maximum number of AIDS patients are found only in Mumbai and Chennai. In 1991 one crore people will have AIDS and will be spreading the disease to others, says a report by the American centre for Prevention of Diseases.

The disease which started with homosexuality is spreading fast because of hetero sexuality caused by lack of spiritual awareness and indisciplined life. The poisonous liquid that causes deficiency in the immune system - HIV (Human Immuno deficiency Virus) is first seen in the blood and becomes AIDS and ultimately reaches a dangerous state. Statistics reveal that

the disease which was almost non - existent in 1981, rapidly spread to 60 lakh people in 1990.

### **A dangerous disease which will wipe out mankind**

According to the calculation of the Director of W.H.O. the number of people affected by AIDS is becoming double every year. At this rate, in a few more years 50 crores AIDS patients will have died and 50 crores thus affected will be expecting death. Epidemics like plague and cholera have been contained because the patients have been given proper medical treatment. But, if people who know the law and command of God consciously violate them, *God warns them that He will send them plagues of various kinds (Deut. 28:58, 59, 61 (1451 B.C.) V. 58: "If you do not carefully observe all the words of this law that are written in this book, that you may fear this glorious and awesome name, THE LORD YOUR GOD, V. 59, then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary plagues - great and prolonged plagues - and serious and prolonged sicknesses. V. 61: Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the LORD bring upon you until you are destroyed."*

### **Transgression of the Law of God leads to destruction**

AIDS is a disease not mentioned in the Bible. Since no medicine has been discovered to treat it, there is no way one can escape death. The soul that transgresses the law of God will be cut off from among his people says the Word of God (Lev. 18:29). We see the word being fulfilled in modern times. Besides AIDS there are other dreadful, terminal diseases like cancer which manifests itself in various forms such as blood cancer, throat cancer, brain cancer, colon cancer, liver cancer, breast cancer, bone cancer and many more. There is also the chikungunya fever, bird flu, viral fever, swine fever and many new ones also take us by surprise. Even the storm - the

type of which we have never seen before - Tsunami, floods, earthquakes, volcanoes, violence, terrorism, murder, plunder and rape take place. All these are the initial warnings of God that planet earth is going to be destroyed. The Bible says that the earth is kept to be consumed by fire. This destruction is not far away. With this in mind, I wrote the SOS book '**An urgent call**' in Tamil. If people repent, we shall be saved from destruction. Or else, unimaginable destruction awaits us.

#### **14. The miracles the Lord did in the battles fought against Israel**

In 1948, as soon as the nation of Israel was declared an independent nation, the six neighbouring Arab countries organized a joint army and waged a war against Israel. God was with them and, guarding them as the apple of His eyes, gave them victory over the joint army of the Arabs in all the five battles. I have described the miracles God did in those battles in my book, '**The consequences of opposing Christ - Part I**' (Now I have got some more details about them. Please read them also). God is always with those who have received Him as their Saviour. The following will bear testimony to the way the Lord deals with those who oppose the people. He has chosen for Himself. He has already given them His promise as follows. Deut. 28:7 - "***The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.***" Isaiah 41:12 - "***You shall seek them and not find them - those who contended with you. Those who war against you shall be as nothing, as a non-existent thing.***"

**Edmund Allenby**

The army of Egypt was advancing towards, Israel and

Jerusalem in the desert of Sinai. Edmund Allenby, a Christian general, known as a human beast was leading the army. When he reached Israel, he hesitated to shed blood in the Holy Land. He prayed and read the following verses in the Bible: ***"For thus the LORD has spoken to me. As a lion roars and a young lion over his prey (when a multitude of shepherds is summoned against him, he will not be afraid of their voice nor be disturbed by their noise), so the LORD of hosts will come down to fight for Mount Zion and for its hill, Like birds flying about, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem, defending, He will also deliver it; passing over, He will preserve it"*** (Isaiah 31:4,5)

Allenby found the reference to the lion in the portion he read in the Bible. Since he belonged to England, he had known the lion as the national symbol of Great Britain. He understood that Isaiah had prophesied that the Lord would fight like a lion for Zion (Jerusalem) and he also knew that the Lord would defend Jerusalem like birds flying and also deliver it. Fighting the battle on behalf of His children, He would give them victory.

Allenby flew small scout aeroplanes over Jerusalem and from them dropped pieces of paper in which was given the order to the Turks in their language to surrender and hand over Jerusalem. It was signed by Allenby himself. In Arabic, Allah Nabi (like Allenby) stood for the prophet of God. Therefore, without resistance the Turks surrendered Jerusalem. The British took control of it in 1917 and occupied it till 1948.

In the 10th century a Muslim poet wrote that a prophet would enter Jerusalem. It is said that instead of mounting a white horse and going in a procession, Allenby entered Jerusalem with his army walking. Without realising it was God's will, he decided to go walking. Since the city of Jerusalem was under the control of the British, there was very little resistance to the

nation of Israel becoming independent. Had it been under the Turks, it would not have been possible so easily and without much resistance.

### **The battle fought in Netanya in 1948**

The nation of Israel had no army when it was declared independent. It had only 5 machine guns, and 15 bullets for their use, only one motorshell and one tank. The surrounding Arab nations joined together and made all preparations for launching an attack on Israel.

The battle of Netanya was fought in the landscape between Tel Aviv and Haifa. The enemies had planned to begin the battle on the 8th day after Israel got her independence, but, Israel had a different plan. On 23rd May at midnight, all men, women and children lined up all their cars, trucks and taxis on the sea shore. They removed the exhaust pipes from the vehicles. At the same time, another group took big empty oil drums and went to the hilltop. They filled the drums with stones of different sizes. When a signal was given, the people started their cars and trucks and at the same time those on the hilltop rolled the drum filled with stones. the noise made by the engines without the exhaust pipes and that of the drums with stones which came rolling down, made a thundrous noise which woke up the Arabs.

They wondered where the deafening noise was coming from at dead of night. They thought, perhaps the Americans had brought their Sherman tanks into Israel. They fled leaving all their arms and ammunitions. Look how the Lord saves the people He loves by using insignificant things. Not only did the people of Israel win the battle without shedding a drop of blood, they who had no arms and ammunitions got all the armaments which the coalition of six Arab countries had left behind while fleeing. Is there a match for the Lord's wisdom and grace?



## **The battle of Bethshean**

The Arabs had captured the city of Bethshean. The Jews did not have enough arms to fight with the Arabs. But, one of them had an idea to deceive the Arabs. A truck that was carrying iron pipes developed a snag and was stranded on the road. There were many old, unusable wagons in that area. The Jews removed the wheels of the wagons, inserted the iron pipes into them and made them look like machine guns. They made 20 such machine guns and installed them at different places around the city. They had only two motors.

The next day they used a loudspeaker and issued a warning to the Arabs. They told the Arabs to leave immediately surrendering the city. Otherwise, they would be destroyed. Hearing this, the Arab leader laughed loudly. The Jews fired a bomb at the city of Bethshean from a motor. They told the Arab leader that the machine guns were surrounding them everywhere and that the Arabs should clear out from the city in five minutes. Or else, they would have to face terrible consequences. As they were speaking, they sent another bomb from the second motor. The Arabs looked around and saw the protruding iron pipes which looked like machine guns. Seized with fear, they surrendered the city and left. Glory be to God! He is indeed a counsellor and He has promised us in Ps. 32:8. ***"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye."***

## **A ship with paper missiles**

It was the year 1956 - eight years after Israel's independence. The enemy countries around her were waiting like a lion to devour and reduce her to nothing. As far as Israel was concerned, we can say that she had no navy, whereas her prominent enemy President Nasser of Egypt had many modern war ships. Nasser ordered the biggest of them to be sent towards Haifa in Israel.

Israel had only a good - for - nothing, throwaway ship. The people painted it and made it look like a new one. The Jews made card board missiles, kept them on the deck and fixed them in such a way that they faced the Egyptian ship. Then they sent a small boat with a note saying that they had a new ship with missiles overlooking their ship. They should surrender immediately; if not, all of them would go down with the ship. The Egyptians saw the newly painted ship of the Israelites shining in the sunlight and the cardboard missiles fixed to it. Without a word they left their very powerful ship with the Jews and returned to Egypt.

Not only did the Jews prevent a naval attack by using an old, unusable ship and cardboard missiles, they could also grab a warship from the Egyptians. Wow! In I Cor. 1:27 we read, ***"God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things of the mighty, and base things of the world, and things which are despised, to bring to nothing the things that are."*** In addition, it is said in James 1:5, ***"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."*** The Jews ask God and He gives them new ideas!

### **The miracles God did in the battle in 1967**

The Lord did countless number of miracles in the famous battle of the year 1967. One of them was reported by a Catholic news reporter who was sending the latest war news directly from the battlefield. Ernie Milson had met him in person at Baton Rouge in Los Angeles. In the dangerous battle there was a heavy loss of life. Once an Israelite soldier was brought to the medical camp heavily bombed in the stomach, with the result, his intestines had come out and were hanging from the stomach. Many had died and some were maimed. The condition of this soldier was indeed precarious and it looked as though he would die any moment.

But, the soldier had not lost consciousness. He prayed mentioning the many names of God in the Hebrew language. To the bewilderment of the news reporter, the soldier suddenly shrieked and got off his cot. All the intestines had gone back to his stomach. There was no sign of injury caused by shellfire. He was in perfect health. He jumped and ran out praising the Lord's name.

The reporter said to Ernie, "I am a Catholic. I should believe the miracles the Lord does. But, I've never seen such a miracle as this. I saw with my own eyes the miracle that was happening right before me."

These miracles prove that the battle is the Lord's. America is battling against terrorism in the countries of the world. We should pray with tears for their safety. We should fast and pray that the Lord should save the young men and women who are fighting against terrorism because they are fighting for our freedom. The God of the Bible is a miracle - working God. Even today He performs miracles in the lives of those who believe in Him.

Even in our country in the name of caste, creed and language various kinds of terrorist activity and violence are taking place. We should pray for our nation's joy and peace and for a society without terrorism. People should have the freedom to choose a God and a religion which they like and live having faith in that God and the religion. We should kneel down and pray for the churches, pastors, servants of God and various misisions which send missionaries who work selflessly for the upliftment of the downtrodden. We should constantly pray for the religious fanatics who organise terrorist attacks. We should also pray for the revival of our nation, for its prosperity, peace and happiness, and for all the citizens of our nation so that they will forget the difference in caste, religion and language and live as children of the same mother. The Lord of hosts will certainly answer our prayer. Amen.

(Perry Stone had written an article under the title 'Amazing War stories - God's provision during Times of War' and published it in the Voice of Evangelism, Vol. 25/1, Jan. Feb. 2003. It was sent to me from Tuticorin by Dr. J.V. Jason, DM & S (Suganthi Nursing Home). On behalf of the readers I express my gratitude to Perry Stone and Dr. J.V. Jason - S. Thayappan)

## **15. Scarcity of food in Russia**

God gave the people of Israel a clear warning through Prophet Ezekiel. He said that when they went after other gods and stopped following the Lord Jehovah, He would make them experience a lack of food and water. (Ezek. 4:17 and 5:16). In the same way, when a nation sins against God, and transgresses His law grievously, He will stretch forth His hand upon it and break the staff of bread and send famine upon it. (Ezekiel 14:13 - 594 B.C.).

### **The fulfilment**

In the year 1917 the king of Russia named Nicolas Czar II was killed by the communist party which came to power. It was thought that religion would be an impediment to implementing the tenets of the communist party. Therefore, they tried to put an end to religion and as a result, no propagation of the gospel was permitted and atheism was advocated. Since Christians protested, Christian churches were demolished and were burnt and religious studies in schools were stopped, and instead, communist principles were taught. Even prayers at home were prohibited, and the parents and teachers who taught religion to children were sent to Siberia where they were forced to work as slaves in mines. There was no limit to the number of

Christians who were tortured and killed for the name of Jesus Christ.

People who were considered rich were mercilessly killed and their property was confiscated by the State. Using its own army strength, Russia compelled countries such as Hungary, Austria, East Germany, Poland, Rumania and Czechoslovakia to follow the communist principles. Later, the communists infiltrated into Albania, Ethiopia, Sudan, Burma, North Korea, China, Vietnam, Mongolia and Cuba, toppled their governments and made them atheistic countries. Now, we may say that there are no countries which do not function with governments formed by atheistic communists. Those who followed communist principles were those who denied the existence of God. Russia was responsible for it.

Before the Russian Revolution in 1917, during the regime of the Czars, the Crimean peninsula on the north of the Black sea and its surrounding region were very fertile and produced the quantity of wheat which Russia needed and could also export it to the European countries around it. Those days, Crimea was known as 'The World's Basket of Bread'. But after it became a communist country, it was affected by a severe cold not known in history till then and its food production became much reduced. Another probable reason could be the lack of enthusiasm of farmers to work and earn because of the communist policy. It is said that the Russian scientists tried very hard to change the climatic condition, but they did not succeed.

(source: The coming peace in the Middle East by TIM La Haye - P. 126).

The Soviet Socialist country occupies one sixth of the world's total extent of land. It abounds in natural resources as we see in the data given below:

Of the international coal resources	57%
Of the international ground oil	58%
Of the international forestry	25%
Of the international gold reserve	over 50%

(Source: God's Promises by Salem Kirban)

Of the international Potassium	54%
Of the international Manganese	88%
Of the international Phosphate	30%
Of the international Iron ore	25%
Of the international metal melted	19.5%

(Source: Guide to Survival by Salem Kirban, 1990 edition p.137).

In spite of having so many natural resources, Russia's food production and economy have deteriorated to such an extent that it is forced to beg other countries for food because it rejected the Lord, persecuted Christians and pastors and prohibited preaching the gospel in the country. The punishment the Lord has for such a country is scarcity of food which is absolutely necessary for man's survival.

Although Russia has greatly advanced in science (and has a strong army with which it is threatening the world), and taking extra efforts to increase its food production by doing special researches, Almighty God has made heaven above it brass and the earth, iron (Deut. 28:23) and created a scarcity of food so that Russia has to look to other countries for a supply of food. Russia is mainly dependent on the U.S.A. to help solve her problem of food scarcity. Countries like America, Canada, Australia and Malaysia export a lot of food materials to Russia. Even our country India which is reckoned the second highly populated country with a population of more than 70 crores is

sending food materials to Russia. This indicates the sad state of Russia in the matter of food.

The extent of land in Russia is 0.1% more than that of America. But, India's land exceeds that of Russia by 1.7%. India exported to Russia wheat, rice, millets, varieties of oil, fruit, pickles, pepper, cardamom, chillies, onion, coffee, tea, tobacco etc. in 1985-86 to the tune of 683 crores of rupees according to the Indian government's statistics. According to Russia's statistics, of the total imports, one fifth (21%) is food stuff.

Russia imports even fish from other countries in spite of having a long beach with many bays on the northern border. In 1985 - 86 India exported prawns and other species of fish to the tune of 70,000/- rupees. Not only was Russia against the Lord, she forced many other countries to also sin against God, and therefore, the Lord broke the staff of bread as He had spoken through Prophet Ezekiel.

It was perhaps because the Russian leader Mikhail Gorbachev realised his mistake that he changed the policy of the country and took measures to allow the Holy Bible to be brought to Russia, to print the Bible in Russia itself, to remove all obstacles to Christian worship, to let the Jews leave Russia without any restraint and make the country a democracy once again. The Russian government gave permission to the Russian Orthodox Church to print a lakh copies of the Bible in the Russian language.

Similarly, the Russian government gave permission to import 5,000 sets each consisting of 15 books (75,000 books) of Barclay's Bible commentary. The reason for the protest in favour of democracy in Russia and other European countries is the ungodly principles of atheism and those of communism.

Corruption is rampant in Russia. The Russian currency has lost its value and become useless. "The people pretend to work

and the government pretends to pay them" reports a monthly publication.

Since the economy of Russia had reached a state of deterioration, Mikhail Gorbachev made an effort to get the country revert back to democracy and theism. A country which denies the existence of God and says that everything, including human beings, evolved naturally will suffer without food, however much it is advanced in science and technology because God will make heaven brass and the earth, iron. When man is forced into a tight corner and has to remain without food, he is compelled to change his ideologies and seek God, who is the Giver of all blessings.

Now, Russia and the other communist countries have realised their mistakes and have begun to seek God and decided to remove all restrictions to the use of the Bible, and permit Christian worship services to go on as before. Thus they are returning to their original position and becoming theists.

But our country is steeped in spirituality and godly fear. The sithars, wisemen, spiritual stalwarts like Alvars, Nainmars, Thiruvalluvar and Vivekanandar hailed Christ as the true God. All Hindu Vedas and Upanishads speak about Jesus Christ. Because of Christianity our nation has improved and prospered. It makes the citizens spiritually strong and holy. The two sects of Hinduism, namely Saivism and Vaishnavism emerged as the important religions of India because of the influence of Christianity. (Please read my book 'Saivism and Vaishnavism'). That Christianity was in existence in India even before it spread to Western countries was affirmed by national leaders like Dr. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Rajendra prasad, Dr. Ambedkar and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. To such a religion there is restraint and permission is not given to build churches. The existing churches face opposition from extremist groups. They attack Christian pastors and churches. God is watching everything patiently.



I am an evangelist who goes to various churches to give the message of salvation. I have heard about the people who have worked against churches, pastors, servants of God and Christianity. I have also heard about the sad end of such people. I cannot write about them without giving details such as the name and the place of the pastor, the ones who opposed him and what happened to those who were hostile to him and indulged in violence. Without giving evidence I cannot write about such incidents. That is why I have not written about them so far. Those who opposed Christians and Christianity have not survived. Among today's pastors many were opponents before their conversion. I myself was against Christianity and Christians. There was a terrible blow that shook me and my family after which I realised my mistakes (Please read my book *'My cry and joyful new life'*. The book and the V.C.D. are in many languages and the price of each one is only Rs. 10).

Now, returning to the subject of Russia, it is clear that the words God spoke through Prophet Ezekiel are being fulfilled in Russia and its friendly nations.

When the Prime Minister of India visited Russia between 23.7.90 and 25.7.90, the press reporter who went with the group which accompanied him wrote the following about the condition of food in the Russian capital: "I have never seen such a scarcity of food and other essential items in the Russian capital. Today even those who keep a lot of roubles and dollars in their pockets are unsure of the availability of any food to eat. Even in big restaurants, dinner tables are reserved by people a month or some weeks earlier and in small restaurants the cupboards are empty."

Many Russians pay an amount in advance to buy a car and wait for 7 - 10 years. People of different age groups in Russia long for a V.C.R, colour T.V. cassettes, calculators and computers. Those who visit Western Europe and America

bring many such useful things (Source: The Indian Express, dt. 19.8.90).

We learn from the foregoing account how the communist nation of Russia which we consider the most advanced country in science and technology and the second strongest in the world was punished because it was responsible for making other countries deny the existence of God and for making Christians suffer. The only remedy is to change their atheistic tenets and accept the Lord Jesus as their God.

The following resolutions were passed in the Russian Parliament meeting, held on 28th September 1990: Religious freedom could be granted; the restrictions that were in force for 73 years could be liberalised and freedom to organize religious societies and friendly committees be given; full freedom to be given for having religious activities. The government should return churches for religious worship; religious societies could send their representatives to foreign countries for studies in religion and, in the same way, foreign students could be permitted to study in the Soviet Union; government money should not be spent on religious activities or on spreading atheistic principles. The resolutions were passed with 341 people voting in favour and only one refraining from voting. (The Hindu dt. 28.9.99).

If through those resolutions the Soviet union would repent and get close to the Lord, they would be forgiven and delivered from afflictions just as the Lord had mercy on the people of Nineveh when they repented and spared them from destruction (Jonah 3:10-862 B.C) Even King David knew God's nature of forgiveness when he prayed in Ps. 86:5. ***"For you Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon you."*** In order to obtain mercy from God the nation should repent. Taking our country (India) for example, I wonder if such a big country with people steeped in

idol worship for centuries will repent easily. For political gains some groups instigate people to indulge in terrorist activities against Christians and Christianity. Not satisfied with the number of temples (for Hindu gods), they want to build more, and even the new one they want to build by demolishing the mosque existing on the site. When are the religious fanatics going to repent? All Christians should pray for them with tears. The eyes of the people who oppose Christianity should be opened. We should entreat the Lord that they should repent and become citizens of the kingdom of heaven.

'The Hindu' a daily, published a long article on 6th October 1990 saying that the Soviet Union would face an acute famine. For more than half a century (after it turned atheistic), it had been in a very backward condition economically and in the agriculture sector and because of its wrong plans it would be greatly affected by the year 1991. Now, there are signs of Russia repenting. For instance, after 73 years, a worship service was held for the first time in St. Basil's Catholic Church in the Red Square in Moscow on Saturday the 13th October 1990. Loud Speakers were permitted outside the church, too. Even at short notice 1000 people took part in the service (The Hindu, dt. 15.10.90)

Even if Mikhail Gorbachev truly led the country to repentance, his successors might lead Russia in the Old way and cause the prophecies in the Bible to be fulfilled. Russia which prevented the Jews from leaving the country and levied a big amount of money from those who were leaving, relaxed the rule in January 1990, and since then permitted the Jews to leave on account of acute scarcity of food and bad economic conditions.

In this way, what the Lord spoke through Isaiah the prophet in 712 B.C. saying, ***"I will say to the north, Give them up! And to the south, Do not keep them back! Bring My sons***

*from afar, and my daughters from the ends of the earth"*  
 -(Isaiah 43:6,7) was fulfilled.

Many countries sent to Russia the most essential food grains and food stuff for children in response to the appeal made by the Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev on 23.11.90 and the urgent appeal of the leaders of Moscow on 29.11.90. The details of help Russia received are given below:

Japan: The relationship between Japan and Russia was not good after the II World War. Yet, on humanitarian grounds, Japan gave two crore dollar help for the medical expenses of the people involved in the Chernobyl nuclear - leak accident.

Germany: In the first week of December 1990 itself Germany sent food stuff worth 34 crore dollars. As an emergency measure, the German Red Cross Society sent 35 tons food materials to Soviet Union. The German Telethon company came forward to give two lakhs worth food stuff immediately.

Italy: A group known as 'Unity for peace' decided to send 90 tons food materials and medicines. As the first instalment it sent to Moscow 14 ton materials on 30.11.90 itself.

France: France came forward to sell from the city of Milan 10 lakh dollar worth milk at cost price to Soviet Union. The selling price of 9 lakhs dollars was borne by the Government of Milan itself (The Hindu, dt 1.12.90).

Israel: The tiny nation of Israel sent to Moscow 15 tons milk powder by planer. (The Hindu dt. 11.12.90). The European Common market countries: These countries decided to give 1100 million (110 crores) dollar worth materials to the Soviet Union (The Hindu, dt. 12.12.90).

The U.S.A: According to the news in 'The Hindu' dt. 12.12.90 the U.S.A. decided to send 1000 billion worth food grains and food to surmount difficulties during the winter

months. Besides, the American President George Bush informed Mikhail Gorbachev that America had agreed to send a loan of 1.5 million dollars (150 crores) to the Soviet Union for getting food grains. This loan would be paid to them in three instalments of 60 crores in June 1991, 50 crores in October, 1991 and 40 crores in February 1992 (The Hindu, dt. 13.6.91).

India: India sent 10 lakh tons wheat as a loan and 20 thousand tons rice, medicines and other essential materials. Wheat was sent by ships and as an emergency measure, other essential things were sent by plane. India also gave Gorbachev a cheque for one crore rupees for the medical expenses of the victims of the nuclear leak accident in Chernoby.

Altogether from 21 countries, food grains food stuff and essential materials were sent to the airports and rail station in the Soviet Union (The Hindu dt. 16.12.90). Gorbachev made some changes in order to improve the existing conditions. Therefore, he was forced to relinquish office. However, the freedom of religion he brought about has yielded good results. Many could accept Jesus and live without fear. Propagating religion also takes place unhindered.

Former President Mikhail Gorbachev's principles have made the Soviet Union divide itself into 15 independent countries and yet, they function under the banner of the Union of Independent Nations. In spite of all these, neither the economy of Russia nor the food situation there has improved. The reason for this is that Russia is concentrating its attention on producing armaments and selling them to Arab countries. At present all the Arab countries are spending the big amount of money which they get from their oil wells on buying armaments. Though they say it is for self protection, we may assume that they will use them against Israel at a later date. It is said that when the war between Russia and Israel takes place as it is given in Ezekiel chapters 30 and 39, the Arab countries

will join Russia and come against Israel. As a preparation for the war, they are accumulating modern arms and ammunitions.

The United Arab Republic with six countries which had no idea of increasing their arms before, held an exhibition of armaments in the U.A.R. from March 19 to 23, 1995. They bought whatever armaments they required. To this exhibition came 519 companies from 40 countries and exhibited what they had brought (The Hindu, dt. 19.1.95). In arms production America, Russia and China are vying with one another. Though Russia and China are in the forefront in arms production, in the matter of food sufficiency both countries are lagging behind America.

Saying that they are reducing arms for peace, world countries concentrate all their attention on discovering new and powerful arms. See what God has said through Jeremiah 6:14 and 8:11 - *"They have also healed the hurt of my people slightly, saying, 'Peace, peace!'"*

Many sources disclose the fact that Russia is still hoarding arms without honouring the treaties which she has signed for reducing the number of armaments.

### **17. The Roman emperors came under a curse**

From the beginning, the Roman emperors were dead against Christ and Christianity. They insisted that only they should be worshipped as God, and no one else (or nothing) should occupy the place of God was the Roman law. This began with Emperor Nero and continued with others. Whatever petition was submitted to Nero the emperor, should be done with the words, "My God, my God Nero." Because Christians opposed it, they were accused of treason and mercilessly murdered.

All the ten emperors who succeeded Nero followed the same pattern. Yet, Christianity flourished and spread far and wide.

Constantine was the eleventh emperor and he came to the throne in 312 A.D. He did not get involved in the affairs of the kingdom immediately. He sat in a place and began to analyse the end of Roman history. He found to his dismay and surprise that no one who reigned before him had a peaceful end.

Unable to bear his sorrow, *Nero* committed suicide. *Domitian* was killed by his own servants. *Hadrian* was afflicted by a terrible disease, suffered because of unbearable pain and died. *Severus* was killed by his own son. He reigned only for three years and died an untimely death. *Decius* got immersed in a sand bog and died. Even his body could not be recovered. *Valerian* was skinned to death by the Persians. *Diocletian* was dethroned. He became mad and died in a pathetic way. *Maximian* lost his power, hanged himself and died. *Julian* swore that he would remove the name of Jesus Christ from the earth. In the end, as he was dying in the battle, he took his own blood, flung it towards heaven saying, "O, Nazarene, You have won!"

Because Constantine was wise and intelligent he weighed all the aspects and accepted Jesus Christ as his God. He embraced Christianity and opened the way for his subjects to accept Christianity. In 313 A.D. he published the Edict of Milan by which he established toleration for Christianity. His interest in Christianity continued till his death. The Roman Catholic churches the world over were established by him.

### **Why do I write this?**

In Revelation 10:6 (the last book in the Bible) we read that '*there would be time no longer. We are nearing the end of the age*'. When we think of what is going to happen to the world we are living in, Our whole being shivers. Recently, China test fired a nuclear bomb forty times more powerful than the one

that was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It can destroy 90 lakhs people. Many nations have produced bombs that contain deadly germs which will cause epidemic to erupt. They have the power to utterly destroy mankind. This world would be in a state of madness.

Only in the thousand year reign of Jesus Christ will there be peace. Many years before Jesus will come to reign here on the earth for a thousand years, the saints (the Church - the bride of Jesus Christ) will be taken to heaven with HIM (I Thess: 4:16-17). In order to be taken to heaven with Jesus in His second coming, we should live a righteous, upright, truthful, perfect and holy life, show the love and goodness of Jesus our Lord and Saviour to this world and prepare others also for the Lord's coming.

May the gracious hand of the Lord be with us, our nation and the leaders who rule our nation.

With love,  
Your brother  
**S. Thayappan**

